

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DATE: October 6, 1977

SUBJECT: GE Plant at Rome and Telephone Conversation
with Gene Welsh/GA EPD of 10/6/77

FROM: Deputy Director
Enforcement Division

TO: Files

Site: Ch. 1
Break: 10.1

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I called Gene Welsh today to get an update on the situation with GE, Rome, and their NPDES permit to control PCBs. He advised me of the following events:

The State EPD issued a permit to GE Rome limiting their discharge of PCBs to 1 ppb (detectable limit) about seven months ago. General Electric contested the permit and it has been effectively "stayed" since that time. In an effort to "get things going" Welsh and the GE technical people have met on a number of occasions and negotiated on agreeable schedules for PCB clean-up and run-off control. The State Law Department is working on a consent order to avoid further delay and court action. Welsh stated the order would give General Electric Corporation more time.

Since part of the PCB problem at GE involves discharges to the City treatment plant, the state has also been negotiating with them. The City had contracted with Lockwood-Green Consultants and are prepared to clean-up the highly contaminated sludge in the digestors (three million gallons) by coagulating and using polymers on the liquid, and running the effluent back through the plant. They will also dewater the sludge to 30% solids; encapsulate, and store for perpetual care in a reinforced concrete warehouse or transfer to incinerate. GE has agreed to pay \$500,000 for the project over the next two years. The City of Rome is also to be issued an order.

Welsh stated their negotiations were not yet finalized. He expects a signed agreement soon and an order to be issued in about two to three weeks. At that time he will be in touch with us for a full briefing and copy of order. He is concerned about confidentiality and delicate nature of the present negotiations.

I said okay and to keep us posted.

Original Signed By

Howard D. Zeller

cc: P. Traina; G. Harlow;
D. Guinyard; R. Allen

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